

Law Enforcement (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700459

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Town of Yucca Valley lies in the high desert of San Bernardino County in an area known as the Morongo Basin. Incorporated in 1991, Yucca Valley has a population of approximately 26,000 and encompasses about 39 square miles. Yucca Valley does not offer Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) roads or trails within town limits. OHV opportunity abounds in surrounding areas all year around.

In addition to Yucca Valley, the Morongo Basin includes the City of 29 Palms and the unincorporated communities of Morongo Valley, Landers, Joshua Tree, Johnson Valley and Wonder Valley. The 5200 square mile Morongo Basin is home to approximately 100,000 residents, the Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) and the 29 Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC). Both JTNP and MCAGCC are closed to OHV use.

Morongo Basin communities are criss-crossed by dirt roads used by OHV riders. Some dirt roads are Community Service Area (CSA) roads that are maintained by local vendors but paid for through a property tax assessed to residents. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) applies on CSA roads and OHV's are not permitted. Cabins and vacation homes, many used as weekend staging areas and camps by OHV riders, dot the rural areas of the Morongo Basin. OHV activity often increases during weekends and holidays.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD), Morongo Basin Station, is responsible for law enforcement throughout the Morongo Basin. Both Yucca Valley and 29 Palms contract with the sheriff's department for police services. The 188,000 acre Johnson Valley OHV area is located 20 minutes north of Yucca Valley. Though operated by BLM, the area is within the Morongo Basin Station's jurisdiction and deputies respond to calls in this area for crime reports, down riders, search and rescue and more.

This grant will provide funding for OHV enforcement, education and search and rescue operations in the Morongo Basin. Law enforcement personnel will be provided by SBCSD. Officers assigned to this area receive formal and / or on the job training in OHV laws. This training is provided on an on-going basis.

The Morongo Basin Station's OHV enforcement team is equipped with four dual-sport motorcycles and a 4 x 4 truck. OHV enforcement officers routinely ride dual purpose motorcycles from the station to patrol areas. At times, OHV enforcement officers conduct operations in remote areas where fuel and supplies are not readily available. In these cases, the 4 x 4 truck can be used to haul motorcycles, fuel, supplies and personnel. This truck can also be used to recover lost or injured riders and disabled / damaged OHV's from areas not accessible to ambulances or tow vehicles.

The Morongo Basin has seen a steady population increase during recent years. The rising number of citizens and increasing population density has placed OHV enthusiasts and opponents in closer and more common contact. OHV disturbance calls are on the rise and Morongo Basin residents on both sides of the OHV issue have formed citizen's groups to address their concerns.

In an effort to quell illegal OHV activity, San Bernardino County has taken several steps that have restricted OHV use. CSA roads continue to be considered "highways" and OHV riding on these roads is prohibited. Yucca Valley adopted the vehicle code for all dirt roads within town limits and OHV riding on these roads is prohibited. Additionally, Ordinance 3973, which greatly restricts OHV riding on both public and private property, remains in place and is often a basis for OHV related calls for service. The number of OHV calls for service received by the Morongo Basin Station continues to strain the area's law enforcement resources. During 2009, Morongo Basin Station deputies spent over 520 man hours handling OHV disturbance calls - a significant increase over the 450 man hours spent in 2008. BLM still does not have a ranger assigned to the Morongo Basin on a full time basis.

Throughout the Morongo Basin, a number of changes have recently been implemented as a result OHMVR grant funding. Deputies have received OHV enforcement and education training. Some deputies have received further training and been

added to an OHV enforcement team. Community education efforts (public service announcements, distribution of educational pamphlets, etc.) have been stepped up. Carsonite signs have been placed to mark closed areas and routes. Deputies have increased OHV specific patrol and joint operations combining deputies, code enforcement officers and BLM rangers have been conducted.

Funds obtained through this grant will provide for continued OHV opportunity in the Morongo Basin by allowing deputies to continue with, and expand, OHV enforcement and education efforts. These continued efforts will help to reduce the friction between the citizens on both sides of the OHV issue and ensure that OHV opportunities continue to be present in the Morongo Basin.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The Town of Yucca Valley Police Department and the Morongo Basin Station provides police patrol services to approximately 5200 square miles (over three million acres) of the Mojave Desert. The terrain varies dramatically from vast open expanses to steep and technical rocky outcroppings to mountainous foothills. Elevation varies in the Morongo Basin from under 2000 feet above sea level in the eastern end of the basin to over 5000 feet above sea level in the mountainous northwestern end. With these vastly different elevations come equally different OHV opportunities that span the seasons. During the temperate spring and fall seasons, OHV enthusiasts frequent much of the basin. Groups large and small camp in BLM areas, utilize vacation homes and cabins and visit for days or weekends to enjoy the area's OHV opportunities. Winter brings snow to the higher elevations of the Morongo Basin and presents OHV opportunities not found in most desert areas. Even during the heat of summer, OHV users are found utilizing the roads and trails that wind their way through the Morongo Basin's cities and unincorporated areas.

Two incorporated cities, Yucca Valley (approximate population of 26,000) and 29 Palms (approximately population of 27,000), serve as the Morongo Basin's population centers. Yucca Valley is bordered by the Joshua Tree National Park to the south and the unincorporated communities of Morongo Valley, Landers and Joshua Tree to the west, north and east respectively. A vast network of dirt roads and trails criss-cross the landscape in and around the Town of Yucca Valley and several prominent rural / urban interfaces are present.

The south end of Yucca Valley is largely undeveloped desert which provides access to the west end of the Joshua Tree National Park. Numerous dirt roads and trails lead out of Yucca Valley and into the National Park. OHV riding is prohibited within the boundaries of the National Park and OHV encroachment into this area is a continual problem. The north end of Yucca Valley is also largely undeveloped and is within just a few miles of the BLM managed Hondo Wash OHV area and the unincorporated community of Landers. Landers sits just south of the 188,000 acre Johnson Valley OHV area. OHV activity in the residential areas surrounding both the Hondo Wash and Johnson Valley OHV areas generates numerous law enforcement calls for service each year. East of Yucca Valley, at the eastern edge of Joshua Tree, lies the Sunfair Dry Lake Bed. This is home to BLM designated OHV routes but, as with many other areas of the Morongo Basin, the residential areas and non-approved riding areas surrounding these designated routes suffer from OHV abuse and the associated damage to natural and cultural resources.

Approximately half of the unincorporated areas patrolled by the Morongo Basin Station are BLM lands. Although there are designated riding areas and routes within these BLM lands, OHV use is prohibited on the balance of these BLM lands. Several areas contain unique geographical and cultural resources that are threatened by OHV abuse. One such site, the Poste Homestead Historic and Natural Area in Wonder Valley, has been repeatedly damaged by OHV use. The surrounding communities, rural and traversed by hundreds of miles of dirt roads and trails, bear the brunt of OHV riders using non-designated routes, road and trails to access both legal and illegal riding areas.

Northwest of Yucca Valley lie the small unincorporated communities of Rimrock and Pioneertown. These communities lie in the foothills of Mt. San Geronio and border a large expanse of US Forest Service land frequented by OHV users.

Each area patrolled by the Morongo Basin Station and Yucca Valley Police offers terrain and geographical features that make the entire area attractive to OHV use.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

OHV officers patrol on a random basis, with the frequency varying from weekly to monthly. The frequency of patrols, and number of officers assigned to a given detail, are increased during peak OHV use seasons and to address specific problems / areas identified through crime reporting and statistical analysis. During peak OHV use seasons, officers routinely patrol on weekends and / or several days a week.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

The Yucca Valley Police Department currently has five officers assigned to the OHV enforcement detail. Each of these officers has completed POST approved dual purpose law enforcement motorcycle training and received specialized training relating to OHV laws and enforcement, applicable San Bernardino County codes and more. The department is seeking to train additional officers and grant funding, if received, may be used to that extent.

During enforcement operations, OHV enforcement officers sometimes patrol alone. Most operations, however, involve two or more officers working in conjunction to patrol areas where a high volume of OHV complaints have historically been generated or specific OHV related problems have been identified. Allied agencies such as BLM and San Bernardino County Code Enforcement sometimes work in conjunction with Yucca Valley officers and Morongo Basin station deputies in furtherance of OHV law enforcement objectives.

During education and public outreach operations, OHV officers generally deploy in single man vehicles. These operations focus on marking and monitoring closed areas and routes, distributing literature to area riders and businesses and educating citizens as to current OHV laws and legal OHV use opportunities.

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Within the patrol jurisdiction of the Morongo Basin Station, the following areas of particular concern exist - Dozens of miles of Joshua Tree National Park boundary, habitat areas for the federally threatened desert tortoise, the 188,000 acre Johnson Valley OHV recreation area, the Sunfair Dry Lake and Hondo Wash OHV areas, and the Poste Homestead Historic and Natural Area. Huge swathes of land were burned during the Sawtooth Complex Fire of 2006. Natural vegetation barriers in these areas were destroyed making new wilderness areas accesible to OHV users.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The mild climate and vast open areas of the Morongo Basin provide year round OHV opportunities. Legal riding areas including the Johnson Valley OHV area, the Hondo Wash OHV area and BLM designated routes in the communities of Joshua Tree and Wonder Valley all exist. Large privately owned parcels also provide legal OHV opportunities. The continued use of these private and public lands is continually threatened by citizen's groups who use illegal OHV activity as evidence to suggest that all OHV activity should be further restricted or banned. Continued receipt of OHV grant funds will help to ensure that education efforts to keep OHV enthusiasts riding in legal areas will be ongoing and that enforcement efforts targeting those who choose to operate their OHV's outside of the law are educated, cited or arrested as appropriate. These combined enforcement and education efforts will ensure that the current OHV oppotunities that exist within the Morongo Basin are not further eroded or eliminated.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

Regtarding OHV enforcement, informal cooperative agreements exist between the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Morongo Basin Station, and the following agencies: (1) San Bernardino County Code Enforcement - This agency is primarily responsible for enforcement of San Bernardino County codes relating to OHV staging and land use, (2) Bureau of Land Management - The BLM maintains primary jurisdiction over BLM lands. The sheriff's department enforces vehicle code violations relating to OHV use on BLM lands. (3) Joshua Tree National Park Rangers and 29 Palms MCAGCC military police both handle calls within their lands, however information and call sharing routinely occurs when jurisdictional boundaries are an issue.

The Morongo Basin Station, BLM and code enforcement have in the past worked in conjunction to target specific areas of concern and / or locations where unusually high OHV call volume exists.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? (Please select Yes or No)



Yes



No

Explain

No such events occur within the jurisdiction of the Town of Yucca Valley Police Department or the Morongo Basin Station where the applicant receives any funds / reimbursements.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? (Please select Yes or No)



Yes



No

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Each officer assigned to the OHV enforcement team must attend and pass a 40 hour, POST approved dual purpose motorcycle enforcement course. Upon completion of this course, each OHV enforcement officer receives a minimum of 24 hours of on the job training with an OHV enforcement supervisor. This on the job training includes site visits to cultural and natural resources, areas where specific wildlife or environmental concerns exist, areas where OHV problems are regularly reported and areas where OHV use is permitted. Each OHV enforcement officer receives training addressing proper and legal OHV use and CVC and County Code violations relating to OHV use. OHV members also provide briefing training and "calls for service pin maps" to area patrol deputies so that all officers assigned to the Yucca Valley Police Department and the Morongo Basin Station remain up to date on current OHV enforcement issues and strategies.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
The Town of Yucca Valley Police Department has no formal agreements regarding OHV enforcement on federal lands.
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

Law Enforcement - Page 4

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
The Town of Yucca Valley Police Department does not manage OHV recreation facilities.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Yucca Valley Police Department		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-03-22-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Town of Yucca Valley lies in the high desert of San Bernardino County in an area known as the Morongo Basin. Incorporated in 1991, Yucca Valley has a population of approximately 26,000 and encompasses about 39 square miles. Yucca Valley does not offer Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) roads or trails within town limits. OHV opportunity abounds in surrounding areas all year around.</p> <p>In addition to Yucca Valley, the Morongo Basin includes the City of 29 Palms and the unincorporated communities of Morongo Valley, Landers, Joshua Tree, Johnson Valley and Wonder Valley. The 5200 square mile Morongo Basin is home to approximately 100,000 residents, the Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) and the 29 Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC). Both JTNP and MCAGCC are closed to OHV use.</p> <p>Morongo Basin communities are criss-crossed by dirt roads used by OHV riders. Some dirt roads are Community Service Area (CSA) roads that are maintained by local vendors but paid for through a property tax assessed to residents. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) applies on CSA roads and OHV's are not permitted. Cabins and vacation homes, many used as weekend staging areas and camps by OHV riders, dot the rural areas of the Morongo Basin. OHV activity often increases during weekends and holidays.</p> <p>The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD), Morongo Basin Station, is responsible for law enforcement throughout the Morongo Basin. Both Yucca Valley and 29 Palms contract with the sheriff's department for police services. The 188,000 acre Johnson Valley OHV area is located 20 minutes north of Yucca Valley. Though operated by BLM, the area is within the Morongo Basin Station's jurisdiction and deputies respond to calls in this area for crime reports, down riders, search and rescue and more.</p> <p>This grant will provide funding for OHV enforcement, education and search and rescue operations in the Morongo Basin. Law enforcement personnel will be provided by SBCSD. Officers assigned to this area receive formal and / or on the job training in OHV laws. This training is provided on an on-going basis.</p> <p>The Morongo Basin Station's OHV enforcement team is equipped with four dual-sport motorcycles and a 4 x 4 truck. OHV enforcement officers routinely ride dual purpose motorcycles from the station to patrol areas. At times, OHV enforcement officers conduct operations in remote areas where fuel and supplies are not readily available. In these cases, the 4 x 4 truck can be used to haul motorcycles, fuel, supplies and personnel. This truck can also be used to recover lost or injured riders and disabled / damaged OHV's from areas not accessible to ambulances or tow vehicles.</p> <p>The Morongo Basin has seen a steady population increase during recent years. The rising number of citizens and increasing population density has placed OHV enthusiasts and opponents in closer and more common contact. OHV disturbance calls are on the rise and Morongo Basin residents on both sides of the OHV issue have formed citizen's groups to address their concerns.</p> <p>In an effort to quell illegal OHV activity, San Bernardino County has taken several steps that have restricted OHV use. CSA roads continue to be</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: Yucca Valley Police Department
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	<p>considered "highways" and OHV riding on these roads is prohibited. Yucca Valley adopted the vehicle code for all dirt roads within town limits and OHV riding on these roads is prohibited. Additionally, Ordinance 3973, which greatly restricts OHV riding on both public and private property, remains in place and is often a basis for OHV related calls for service. The number of OHV calls for service received by the Morongo Basin Station continues to strain the area's law enforcement resources. During 2009, Morongo Basin Station deputies spent over 520 man hours handling OHV disturbance calls - a significant increase over the 450 man hours spent in 2008. BLM still does not have a ranger assigned to the Morongo Basin on a full time basis.</p> <p>Throughout the Morongo Basin, a number of changes have recently been implemented as a result OHMVR grant funding. Deputies have received OHV enforcement and education training. Some deputies have received further training and been added to an OHV enforcement team. Community education efforts (public service announcements, distribution of educational pamphlets, etc.) have been stepped up. Carsonite signs have been placed to mark closed areas and routes. Deputies have increased OHV specific patrol and joint operations combining deputies, code enforcement officers and BLM rangers have been conducted.</p> <p>Funds obtained through this grant will provide for continued OHV opportunity in the Morongo Basin by allowing deputies to continue with, and expand, OHV enforcement and education efforts. These continued efforts will help to reduce the friction between the citizens on both sides of the OHV issue and ensure that OHV opportunities continue to be present in the Morongo Basin.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Sergeant	450.000	75.730	HRS	25,558.00	8,521.00	34,079.00
	Other-Corporal	250.000	65.400	HRS	12,262.00	4,088.00	16,350.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	700.000	59.290	HRS	31,127.00	10,376.00	41,503.00
	Total for Staff				68,947.00	22,985.00	91,932.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Safety Equipment Notes : Estimated costs to purchase new helmets / boots / personal protective gear / uniforms / etc. and maintain these items throughout the year.	1.000	2000.000	MISC	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00
	Other-Trail Cameras Notes : Camera being considered if Stealth Cam Sniper Pro 8 MP Digital Scouting Camera.	6.000	200.000	EA	900.00	300.00	1,200.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Yucca Valley Police Department
 Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Emergency Medical Supplies Notes : Portable first aid kits and / or First Aid Bags for deployment with OHV team personnel.	10.000	50.000	EA	375.00	125.00	500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				2,775.00	925.00	3,700.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Administrative Costs - Gr	36.000	75.730	HRS	2,044.00	682.00	2,726.00
	Total Program Expenses				73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Yucca Valley Police Department
 Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	68,947.00	22,985.00	91,932.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	2,775.00	925.00	3,700.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	2,044.00	682.00	2,726.00	
Total Program Expenses		73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		73,766.00	24,592.00	98,358.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment